

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/979,584

Examiner

Robert B. Davis

Applicant(s)

PELLEGATTA ET AL.

Art Unit

1722

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 20 June 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Robert B. Davis
Primary Examiner
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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the prior art of record teach or suggest a system of conveyance for a blowing installation for thermoplastic containers, of the type that comprises a series of conveyor elements (24) fitted with at least one gripper device (26, 28) conceived to carry a blank (10) of the container in order to make it circulate along a path inside the installation, of the type in which each gripper device (26, 28) moves in an axial direction in relation to the conveyor element (24) that carries it so that when it is brought from a cleared high position to a low gripped position, engages in an axial direction with the neck (12) of the blank (10), where the blank (10) then rests by an external radial collar (14) on a bearing surface (23), characterized by the fact that each conveyor element (24) comprises a stabilizer (34) that moves in an axial direction from a high retracted position to a low position to come and rest on the blank (10) in order to press it against the bearing surface (23) before the gripper device (26, 28) engages with the neck (12). The closest prior art (Bucklew 4,340,249) discloses a pick-up assembly for picking up a jar comprising a stabilizing member (25) which acts in cooperation with expandable fingers (17) to clamp a jar therebetween for lifting, but the reference fails to disclose or suggest a device for gripping a blank where the blank rests by an external collar on a bearing surface and there is no suggestion or reason to modify the apparatus as the reference is concerned with clamping the jar between the stabilizing member and the fingers such that jar located between dividers (23) does not skew as it is lifted and damage an adjacent jar. McDonald (4,086,999) discloses a coupling element having a lead in guide

(429) and a coupling element (435), but the reference fails to disclose or suggest the stabilizer which contacts the blank in order to press it against a bearing surface before the gripper device engages the neck. Sokolow (3,981,673) and Wrobbel et al each disclose gripper elements for picking up skewed cylinders, but each fails to disclose the combination of elements claimed in claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert B. Davis whose telephone number is 571-272-1129. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9-5:30.

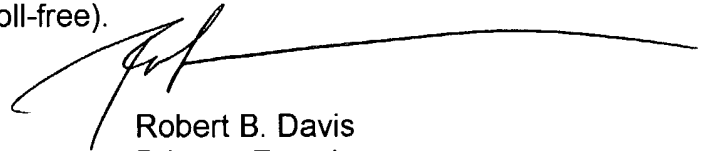
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda L. Walker can be reached on 571-272-1151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Davis', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert B. Davis
Primary Examiner
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3/20/04